

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 022297
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR:MAR
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR.
S/S: MR. SEBASTIAN
S - BTWADDELL

-----012011Z 010823 /43

O 011950Z PEB 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 022297

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM ISRAELI EMBASSY MONDAY, JANUARY 31

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE BY THE ISRAELI EMBASSY MONDAY, JANUARY 31:

2. BEGIN MESSAGE:

1. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE READINESS OF THE UNITED
STATES TO SHOW UNDERSTANDING FOR THE POSITION WE HAVE
TAKEN REGARDING THE SYRIAN FORCES IN THE NABATIYAH REGION
AND THE UNITED STATES CONCURRENCE THAT THESE FORCES SHOULD
LEAVE THIS REGION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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2. WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER IN ORDER NOT TO
SHARPEN THE SITUATION AND WE ARE, THEREFORE, READY TO WAIT
FOR A NUMBER OF DAYS UNTIL WE WILL RECEIVE THE ANSWER
FOLLOWING THE LEBANESE DELIBERATIONS ON MONDAY. WE HOPE
THIS RESPONSE WILL BE OF SUCH A NATURE AS TO REDUCE TENSION
BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FORCES COUPLED WITH THE DECLARA-

TION THAT THEY HAVE COMPLETED THE COLLECTION OF THE HEAVY WEAPONS.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE EMPHASIZING THAT OUR READINESS TO ACCOMMODATE THE SYRIANS CONCERNING THE TIMETABLE SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A WEAKENING OF OUR POSITION AS TO THEIR PRESENCE IN THE AREA. WE CONTINUE TO OPPOSE THIS SYRIAN UNILATERAL ACTION. IT CONSTITUTES A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT TO WHICH NEITHER WE NOR THE UNITED STATES SHOULD AGREE.

4. AS FAR AS THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT SARKIS IS CONCERNED, THAT THE DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN THE NABATIYAH REGION STEMS FROM A CONCERN FOR THE FATE OF THE CHRISTIANS, OUR APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION IN THIS REGION IS DIFFERENT:

(A) IN THE REGION IN WHICH THE SYRIAN FORCES ARE DEPLOYED, THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO CHRISTIAN CONCENTRATIONS OR CHRISTIAN VILLAGES WHICH HAVE TO BE DEFENDED. NABATIYAH AND ITS SURROUNDINGS ARE, AS IS KNOWN, A MOSLEM REGION.

(B) THE CHRISTIAN VILLAGES ALONG THE BORDER ARE QUIET. THEY NEITHER SUFFER FROM MILITARY PRESSURES NOR FROM ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS.

WE SEE IN PRESIDENT SARKIS' REPLY THAT THE SYRIAN FORCES ARE NECESSARY FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE CHRISTIANS MORE THAN A HINT THAT THESE FORCES ARE DESTINED TO REMAIN PERMANENTLY IN THE NABATIYAH REGION OR FOR A CONSIDERABLE
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PERIOD OF TIME. WE ARE APPREHENSIVE THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION WHICH HE HAS CREATED AND WE WOULD ASK THE SECRETARY TO DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE PRESIDENT SARKIS AND THE AUTHORITIES IN DAMASCUS TO WITHDRAW THESE FORCES WITHOUT DELAY. AS WE HAVE EXPLAINED IN THE PAST, WE WILL, OF COURSE, NOT OPPOSE THE ENTRANCE OF A LEBANESE FORCE. END MESSAGE.
VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BORDER CONTROLS, CAT-A, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY BUILDUP, POLITICAL SITUATION, TROOP DEPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE022297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ALATHERTONJR:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: P840070-0288, P800020-1767
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770289/aaaafrvi.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: b27c08ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3448099
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 970829; <DBA CHANGED> GWR 20040428; <DBA CHANGED> GWR 20040503
Subject: MESSAGE FROM ISRAELI EMBASSY MONDAY, JANUARY 31
TAGS: MPOL, PBOR, PDEV, PFOR, IS, LE, SY, US
To: BEIRUT DAMASCUS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbcr://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b27c08ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009